GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7578
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
UPGRADATION OF SEED RESEARCH CENTRE
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposals for upgrading the seed research centre in Kuttanadu, Kerala;

(b) whether the seed research centre has developed a new paddy seed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the developed seed is useful for agriculture and accepted by the farmers in Kuttanadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Madam. Apart form funds being made available by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through All India Coordinated Project (AICRP) on rice and by the State Government, Govt. of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs.409.13 lakhs during 2010-11 for improving the infrastructural facilities at Regional Research Station, Moncombu in Kuttanad by improving the laboratory facilities for modern rice research.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. The station has developed 21 rice varieties Moncombu 1-21 (Mo.1 to Mo.21) for Kuttanad, of which Mo.16 (Uma) is most popular variety in Kuttanad as well as in the state. During 2012, the station released one new rice variety 'Prathyasa' (Mo.21) for cultivation in the double crop wetlands of Kuttanad.

(d) & (e): The variety 'Prathyasa' is suitable for cultivation in Kuttanad. This is a semi-tall variety with a duration of 102-105 days and has an average yield of 5.00 to 5.50 tonnes/hectare (t/ha). The variety possesses good cooking quality and is rich in Iron (Fe) and Zinc (Zn) content. It is also moderately resistant to rice diseases like Sheath blight, Sheath rot and insect pests like Gall midge. This variety gave an average yield of 5.50 to 6.00 t/ha in Front Line Demonstrations conducted in different parts of Kuttanad.